



RECEIVED

APR 31 1996

Information Renaissance

Department of Physics and Astronomy

University of Pittsburgh

FCC MAIL ROOM
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260

April 29, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Caton:

Enclosed is a request for an extension of the deadline for Reply Comments, along with six copies, in the matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45. This request is being made by **Information Renaissance**, a nonprofit organization which seeks to further the development of computer networks in support of education, community development and economic revitalization. As noted in the request, we are working to place Comments submitted for the original April 12 deadline online so that members of the K-12 education community can participate effectively in the FCC's implementation process for Universal Service. The requested one week extension will allow us to complete the process of placing the Comments before the general public and allowing significant broad participation in the formulation of Reply Comments. Also enclosed is a letter from participants in a meeting of the California Technology Assistance Project, representing County Offices of Education and school districts across the state of California. These people are also requesting an extension of the deadline for Reply Comments. We appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,
Robert D. Carlitz

Robert D. Carlitz
Executive Director
Information Renaissance

No. of Copies rec'd 026
List ABCDE

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554**

RECEIVED

APR 30 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

In the Matter of)

Federal-State Joint Board on)
Universal Service)

CC Docket No. 96-45

**Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
and Order Establishing Joint Board**

**Request for Extension of Deadline for Reply Comments
from Information Renaissance**

prepared by

Robert D. Carlitz

(April 30, 1996)

Information Renaissance is one of the respondents to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Universal Service. This nonprofit organization presented views based upon experience with a number of school and community networking projects over the last four years. We hope to continue to participate in the rule making process on this issue and to facilitate the participation in this process of schools and community groups.

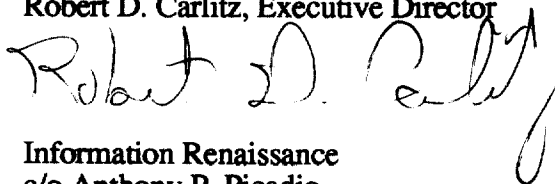
We note that there are severe handicaps for the participation of these groups, given the structure of the current process. A simple look at the statistics relating to Comments submitted for the April 12, 1996 deadline helps to illustrate this point. Most of the regional Bell operating companies, long distance telephone carriers and telephone company trade associations filed testimony. Yet, even though the Notice of Proposed Rule Making dealt extensively and explicitly with matters relating to schools, libraries and rural health care providers, the number of organizations with direct field experience in these areas submitting testimony on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making was minuscule.

Of 50 state departments of education we noted only 3 submissions, or a figure of 6% participation. Of 16,000 school districts we noted only 2 submissions, or a figure of 0.01% participation. There are several reasons for this low turnout, most notably the lack of familiarity that these groups have with the whole regulatory process. We feel that the FCC has an obligation to assist these groups to participate in the process and that this obligation has not been met in the initial stages of deliberation on the Universal Service issue.

Information Renaissance would like to assist school districts, libraries and rural health care providers to participate in the Rule Making process for Universal Service. To this end we have purchased copies of all submissions in the original round of Comments. We are presently scanning this information, processing it with Optical Character Recognition equipment, editing the resulting text and placing it online via the World Wide Web. We have been aided in this task by the FCC's decision to place some fraction of the submitted material online in the form of binary word processing files. Unfortunately the files that have been placed online by the FCC represent no more than 1/3 of the total comments received by the FCC, and these files are extremely awkward for most people to access and read.

In order for significant numbers of school districts, libraries and state departments of education to be able to file Reply Comments based upon adequate knowledge of the original Comments, we would like to request a one week extension of the deadline for the receipt of Reply Comments. This would establish a new deadline of May 14, 1996. We believe that with this new deadline, and with the material that **Information Renaissance** is now placing online, there can be true representation of affected groups in the important deliberations now before the FCC.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert D. Carlitz, Executive Director



Information Renaissance
c/o Anthony P. Picadio
Suite 4680
600 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

April 29, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554


RECEIVED
APR 30 1996
FCC MAIL ROOM

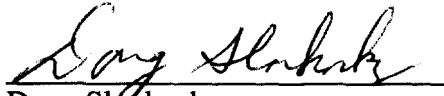
Dear Mr. Caton:


The attached signatories, participants in an April 29 meeting of the California Technology Assistance Project, wish to request an extension of the deadline for Reply Comments to CC Docket No. 96-45, in the matter of the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service. This extension will enable our organizations to participate in the FCC proceedings on this matter, making use of Comments that are currently being placed online through the auspices of *Information Renaissance*.

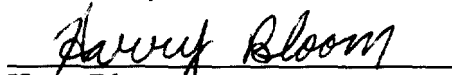
We would like to request a one week extension of the original May 7 deadline, making a new deadline of May 14, 1996. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which will enable us and other educators around the country to take part in the implementation of Universal Service provisions of the new Telecommunications Act. Without this extension we fear that the vast majority of educators will be shut out of this important process.


Sincerely,
CTAP meeting attendees (see attached list of signatures)

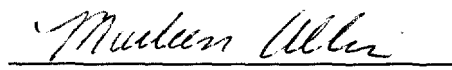

Bob Blackney, RIMS


Doug Slonkusky
San Bernardino County Office of Education (RIMS)

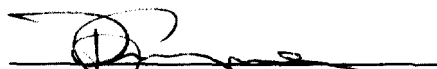

Todd Finnell
Imperial County Office of Education
Imperial


Harry Bloom
San Diego County Office of Education



Susanna Prentice
Orange County Department of Education

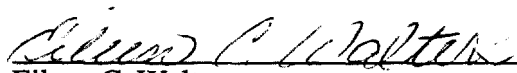

Marleen Allin
California Department of Education

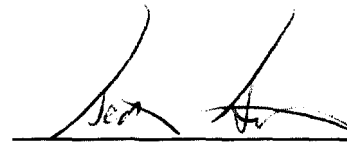
Dave Timpon
Placer High School

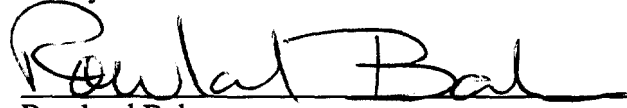

John Lindsay
Kern County Office of Education



Bonnie Marks
Alameda County Office of Education

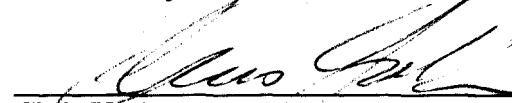

Donavan Merck
California Department of Education

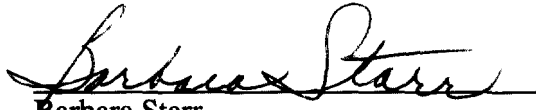

Eileen C. Walters
Fresno County Office of Education


Scott Smith
Valley Oak Middle School

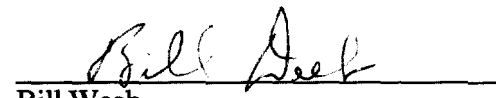

Rowland Baker
Telemation Project



Tim McClure
Butte County Office of Education

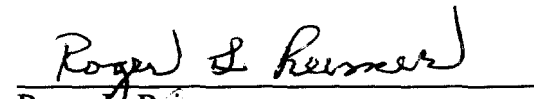

Chris York
Crescent Elk Middle School

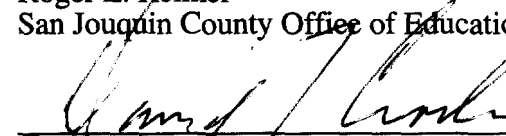

Barbara Starr
Mendocino County Office of Education



Harry Bakker
Stanislaus County Office of Education


Bill Weeb
Monterey County Office of Education


Judy Powers
Santa Clara County Office of Education

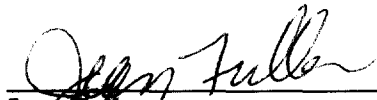

Roger L. Reimer
San Joaquin County Office of Education


David T. Crocker
Tuolumne County Office of Education

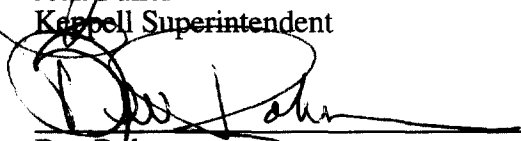

Bob Wallace
Escalon Unified School District



Pat Cabrera
Los Angeles County Office of Education



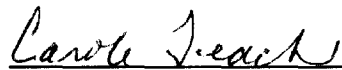
Jean Fuller
Kern County Superintendent



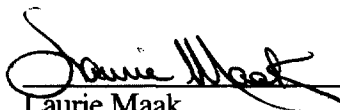
Bev Rohrer
Superintendent, Redondo Beach Unified School
District



Jim Lanich
Los Angeles County Office of Education



Carole Teach
California Department of Education



Laurie Maak
Internet Catalyst



Kathleen Barfield
WestEd